

**APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM
OREGON HOUSE DELEGATION
FISCAL YEAR 2010**

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 20, 2009

PLEASE NOTE: As required by the House Appropriations Committee, all requests will be made public on the requesting Member's website.

1. Project Title: *Helping Our Heroes:
Preventing Suicide Among Oregon Soldiers and Providing Support to
Military Families*

2. Organization Name and address: Oregon Partnership
6443 S.W. Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97221

**3. Primary Contact name, phone number, mobile phone number, fax
number and email:**
Judy Cushing, President / CEO

4. Project Location Address (if different from Organization):

**5. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities, and
whether it is a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity:** Oregon
Partnership exists to end alcohol and drug abuse and is a statewide non-profit dedicated
to drug abuse prevention, education and crisis intervention. Oregon Partnership (OP)
provides four core program areas: 1) Statewide Crisis Lines for alcohol and drug
treatment referral, the only statewide Suicide intervention line, and a YouthLine where
teens help other teens, 2) Youth and Parent Education Programs; 3) Community
Education and Training on drug issues (particular meth, prescription drug issues and
underage drinking; and 4) Public Policy and Advocacy.

**6. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested
(please keep to
500 words or less.)**

Helping Our Heroes: Preventing Suicide among Oregon Soldiers addresses the
escalating occurrence of suicide and addiction among returning soldiers and veterans, and
the stress it causes their families, and provides them access to immediate help. The
requested funds will be used as follows

☐ Oregon Partnership, in collaboration with the Oregon National Guard and Veteran's
Administration will provide a **dedicated 24-hour Crisis Line in Oregon for returning
soldiers and their families** dealing with mental health, suicide, and alcohol and drug
problems, including the recruitment and training of Iraq veterans as crisis line staff to
answer calls from military members and their families.

- ☐ Funding will provide cutting edge software and technology upgrades to improve response, data gathering, and training for the Crisis Line Call Center. Oregon Partnership operates Oregon's only certified statewide suicide line available 24 hours a day.
- ☐ **24-hour confidential triage for returning soldiers, veterans, and their families** to "real-time" helping services (i.e., alcohol and drug treatment, mental health counseling, medical resources, and other support services).
- ☐ Provide training and 24-hour support to military family life consultants seeking guidance for veterans who have severe PTSD, addiction and mental health problems.
- ☐ Partner with Oregon military to give teens from military families a voice in their community utilizing cutting edge media and film to produce short documentaries, public service announcements and/or video presentations using OP's Youth Voices / Youth Choices curriculum.
- ☐ A statewide media public awareness campaign to educate the public about the impact of deployment and the effect on families and the community as a whole.

7. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years? No

7a. If yes, please provide fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.

8. Federal agency and account from which funds are requested (Please be specific –e.g.

Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account):

Department of Defense—Defense Health Program

9. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?

More than half of all veterans who took their own lives after returning from Iraq or Afghanistan were members of the National Guard or Reserve. As alarming, is that the rate of suicide among soldiers who have returned from war zones is at least double the number of troop suicides in war zones. Thousands of men and women also return with disabling injuries and mental health disorders that put them at higher risk for mental illness. Given the nature of injuries in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and the strain associated with long and repeated deployments, the newer generation of veterans appears to be at greater risk of suicide. Add to that the difficulty combat vets face in dealing with failed relationships, financial and legal troubles, health care, and alcohol and other drug problems, it is not surprising that suicide rates are so alarming. Indeed, this represents a major public health crisis. Oregon Partnership and the Oregon National Guard and the V.A. have laid the foundation for a vital collaboration to begin addressing the issues of suicide, alcohol and/or drug addiction, PTSD and other problems. This project will improve Oregon's economy by addressing addiction and mental health problems that are so costly to taxpayers.

10. Have you requested funding for this project from other Members of Congress?

If so, who? Yes: Congressmen Wu, Congressman Blumenauer, Congressman DeFazio, Congressman Walden, Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley.

11. Funding Details:

a. Total project cost (all funding sources and all years): \$2,200,000

b. Amount being requested for this project in Fiscal Year 2010: \$1,200,000

c. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or

activity? (Please provide specific dollar amount or percentage.)

☐ \$550,00 in state of Oregon contract for crisis lines operation

☐ \$450,000 in matching media placements from Entercom and Fox Media

d. Do you expect to request federal funding in future years for this project?

Yes

e. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project in FY 2010.

(e.g. salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000): Please see project budget, attached.

f. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project:

Please see attached letters from:

☐ Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs

☐ Office of the Governor of Oregon

☐ Oregon National Guard

g. Is this project scalable? (i.e. if partial funding is awarded, will the organization be able to use the funds in FY 2010?): Yes